



Maryville High School students exit the school after completing their first day of classes for the 2020-2021 school year Aug. 21. The Maryville R-II School District has 128 students in quarantine after 10 students tested positive for COVID-19, as of Sept. 9.

Teachers deemed essential

KENDRICK CALFEE
News Editor | @calfee_kc

Ten Maryville R-II School District students have tested positive for COVID-19 and 128 students are quarantined district-wide, as of Sept. 9. Before the Board of Education voted to adjust Maryville High School into a hybrid teaching model, the Nodaway County Commission passed a declaration allowing close-contact teachers to continue instruction in-person.

“Students have been very anxious and distracted. We are hoping to ease those fears in class with this model.”
-MARYVILLE R-II SUPERINTENDENT
BECKY ALBRECHT

128
Maryville R-II School District students are in quarantine.

Faculty employed at Nodaway County school districts are recognized as essential workers who, as of Sept. 3, can remain working in-person even when considered a close contact to someone infected with COVID-19.

In order for a close-contact faculty or staff member to remain in-person, they have to fit three criteria: they wear a mask or face shield on campus, they do not display symptoms and they follow social distancing guidelines.

North District Commissioner Chris Burns was one of three commissioners who declared county school faculty administration and staff are essential workers.

“The overall goal of this was to keep teach-

ers to where they could go back to work; to keep students in class,” Burns said.

Maryville R-II Superintendent Becky Albrecht said the declaration was to the benefit of the district, which had teachers in quarantine and a short substitute teachers list.

“If they hadn’t done that we could have very quickly got into a situation where we wouldn’t have enough adults able to supervise students for them to come even for two days on a hybrid schedule,” Albrecht said. “It would have gotten very difficult, very quickly.”

Various counties across the state have implemented similar declarations, following guidance from local health departments which have advised counties to label teachers as essential workers.

Nodaway County Presiding Commissioner Bill Walker said the commission followed Gentry County’s footsteps in passing this declaration in hopes of providing students in local school districts a relatively normal experience.

Maryville High School began its first day of a hybrid learning model Sept. 9. Albrecht said the district conducted research over the summer to see what an alternate attendance model would look like for Maryville R-II, consulting several entities for its design.

The move to officially undergo a hybrid model was something the administration as a whole did not want to do, but when a high number of students went into quarantine, Albrecht said it was a “necessary step.”

“The high school was seeing the highest number of students in quarantine,” Albrecht said. “For now, it’s just the high school going into hybrid teaching.”

In the new attendance model, students are separated into two groups, a green group and a yellow group. The green group includes students with last names beginning with A-L who attend in-person Mondays and Wednesdays only. The yellow group is students with last names M-Z who attend in-person Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On their respective off days, both groups are following remote instruction from teachers and using an online resource called Schoology.

Students attending three-hour blocked lab-based classes at the Northwest Technical School: building trades, auto tech, collision repair, health science and welding will continue to attend those in-person five days a week.

SEE MARYVILLE | A4

Active COVID-19 cases decline at Northwest, in county

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

There have been days over the last six months, and more particularly over the last four weeks, when it’s been tough for Tom Patterson to be optimistic.

Patterson, the Nodaway County Health Department Administrator, has tried to cling to a sense of hope throughout the pandemic that first appeared in the county in April. Thrust into a brightening public spotlight as the case count mounted in the county throughout the summer, he’s maintained a consistently positive tone while serving as the de facto spokesman for the county’s COVID-19 response.

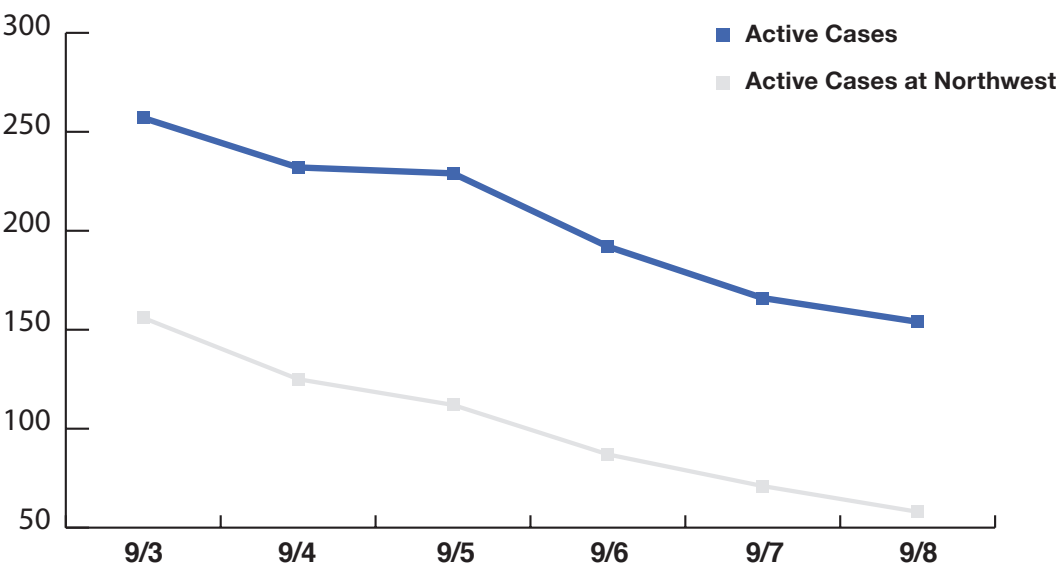
But it hasn’t always been easy. As COVID-19 cases spiked intensely in the county after Northwest resumed in-person classes

Aug. 19, with the 7-day rolling average of positive cases peaking near 30 cases per day Aug. 28, Patterson feared the worst was yet to come. There were times, Patterson said, that he started his workday at the Nodaway County Health Department expecting cases to compound further than they ever did.

“It never quite happened,” Patterson said in a phone call Sept. 9. He recalled the days, just weeks ago, when the county recorded single-day totals of 46 cases, doing so Aug. 26 and then again Aug. 31. He recounted the days in between, when case totals ebbed and flowed between the mid-teens and low 30s. The county recorded cases in the double digits in 16 of 17 days from Aug. 20 through Sept. 5.

SEE CASES | A4

Active COVID-19 cases in Nodaway County and at Northwest



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County becomes hot spot for COVID-19

MADLINE MAPES
News Reporter I @MadelineDMapes

Nodaway County has been labeled a hot spot for the coronavirus by multiple national research entities. Maryville, after speaking with health professionals, plans to wait before taking any further action.

According to the New York Times, Nodaway County is one of several localities seeing a high rate of coronavirus cases. City officials said they expected this kind of increase as the school year began.

Ben Lipiec, mayor of Maryville, said he was knowledgeable about the county’s status since earlier in the week. The topic was discussed with the city manager, local health officials at the Nodaway County Health Department, Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville and the local school districts.

“We knew previous to students returning that chances were that we would see an increase of cases,” Lipiec said.

Lipiec said this was one of the reasons the city passed the mask ordinance in July.

Although the mask ordinance was in place, it did not stop students returning to the University from arriving at party scenes across Maryville maskless the weekend before classes officially began.

Business Insider listed Northwest among universities nationwide with the most number of coronavirus cases since the pandemic began affecting the U.S. In the Sept. 2 article, Business Insider showed that compared to larger Midwest universities, Northwest has less overall COVID-19 cases, with 312 since April.

At the same time, the University of Kansas had 474 cases, the University of Missouri had 614 cases, and University of Iowa had the

most coronavirus cases since April with 935.

As of Sept. 6, according to the Northwest COVID-19 data, there are 85 students who currently are in quarantine or isolation due to testing positive.

Lipiec said there are many coronavirus hot spots all over America, acknowledging Maryville’s hotspot as just one of many. He said he feels that the community he grew up in is doing all that it can to prevent the spread of the virus.

“It doesn’t change anything about how I feel about Maryville, knowing that we are a hotspot,” Lipiec said.

Lipiec said he expects Nodaway County’s status as a hotspot to cause one of two reactions among residents.

First, that they may become more worried about the spread of the virus and may take mitigation efforts more seriously, and second, that people will continue to live out their lives as normally as they can.

“It’s just the chance they take and it’s the chance they are taking to continue to move on and try to establish a new normal,” Lipiec said.

Despite the county’s status, Lipiec said he does not believe the city can take any more preventative measures at this time. He said he hopes that as people social distance and make conscious decisions when they are in public that the county will see a peak in cases and then work on flattening the curve.

Greg McDanel, city manager, said last week the best option for the city is to wait. He addressed that the number of cases change daily and the best way to handle this constant change is to wait and see what happens.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation website on COVID-19

Area college coronavirus cases

Northwest Missouri State University
Total Cases: 312

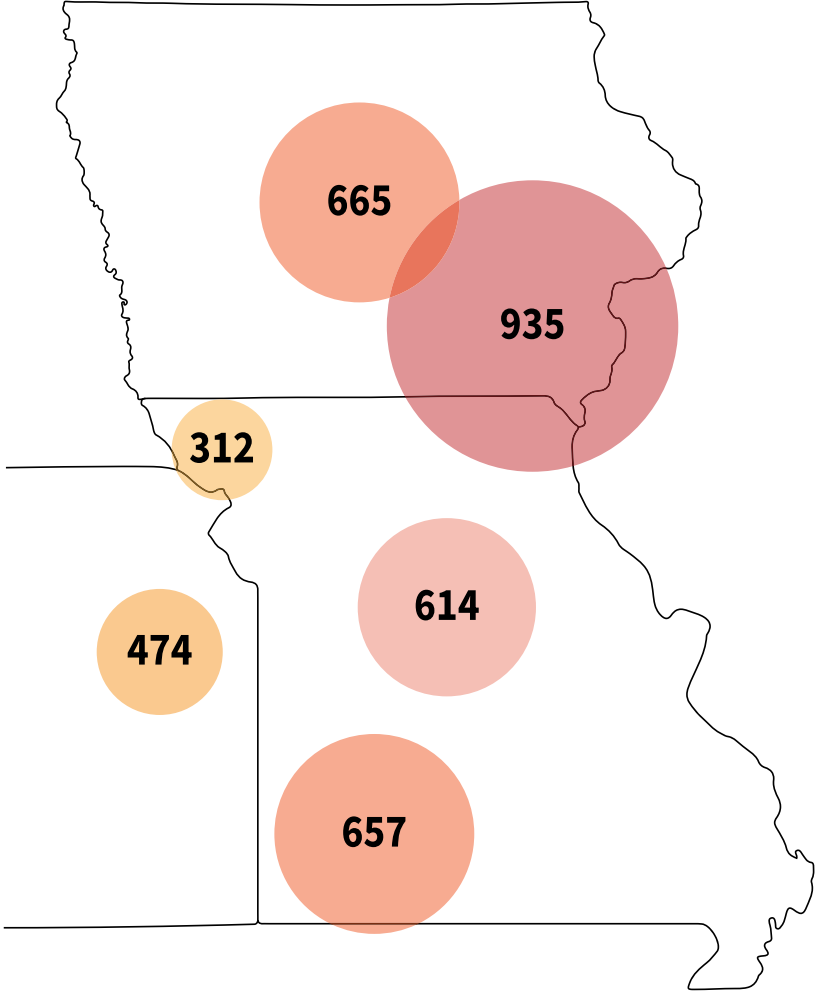
University of Kansas
Total Cases 474

University of Missouri
Total Cases: 614

Missouri State University
Total Cases: 657

Iowa State University
Total Cases: 665

University of Iowa
Total Cases: 935



EMILY KUNKEL | NW MISSOURIAN

state data and policy actions to address coronavirus, all states labeled as hot spots are listed along with their current actions regarding the virus. The website shows that all but 15 states are labeled as coronavirus hot spots.

Iowa is one of the many states listed as a hot spot. The website

states that Iowa has reopened and is allowing all businesses to reopen, not just essential businesses.

Nebraska will be proceeding with reopening, but will retain a mandatory quarantine for international travelers while neither Missouri or Iowa require mandatory quarantines for any form

of traveler.

Kansas has also reopened with mandatory quarantines for travelers from certain states.

Missouri and Kansas also are allowing for the reopening of all businesses, including nonessential business.

‘Occupy Valk’ teach-in calls out racism, promotes change

ASHELY LOSSON
News Reporter I @Ashley_Losson

Northwest is continuing a discussion on inclusivity, calling out white supremacist notions and teaching students how to make a change around campus.

Occupy Valk is a new teach-in lecture series that students can attend either in person or on Facebook Live. The series this semester focuses on inclusivity on campus. The next lecture is Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. in Valk 118, which will cover how voting can make a change in today’s society and why it’s important to vote.

The first teach-in took place Aug. 27, featuring Humanities and Social Sciences Department Chair Dawn Gilley, who spoke about how

the phrase “Western Civilization” is a white supremacist notion.

Gilley said it’s about taking a phrase she hears people use everyday and unpacking it to show that it was made by white supremacists right before the Civil War.

Close to 30 students attended the first teach-in in person, and another 38-40 students live streamed it. Since posting the lecture on social media, it has gained over 1,000 views.

The Occupy Valk series was created by chance when seven Northwest historians came together and tried to figure out how to bring more inclusivity to campus and educate students on racist acts happening across the country.

“It’s a way for the historians of

Northwest to present a larger historical context to the big racists, discriminatory, exclusionary sorts of ideas and practices that we are seeing in American culture,” Gilley said.

The lecture series took form one day over the summer when the humanities and social sciences faculty wanted to do something to bring more inclusivity to campus. Gilley said they decided to play to their strengths and provide historical context to students.

Their goal remains to bring discussion back to the present and to racism that’s happening now.

“We felt it was our duty to take our knowledge, our training, our specializations and share that,” Gilley said.

When planning the lecture, they looked back to the ’60s. In 1965, the University of Michigan held the first ever teach-in. This teach-in was put together by faculty and students who wanted to speak out about the Vietnam War. This teach-in had a great effect on citizens and similar teach-ins quickly made their way around the country.

The faculty wants to encourage students to become active members in society and to speak out on racism around campus.

Gilley said it’s really hard to get students out of their comfort zone and to realize that racism is pres-

ent on campus.

The most common excuse that Gilley said she hears is, “Well I haven’t seen racism, therefore it’s not here.”

“That doesn’t mean it’s nonexistent,” Gilley said. “That doesn’t mean that a black student on this campus isn’t experiencing some sort of racial discrimination in some way.”

Gilley said that in past classes, she has heard students make racial comments and has seen racism around campus, such as blackface. She also noted that she hasn’t seen anything overt in a while.

“I’ve had some students make some offhand, racist remarks in discussion board posts and in papers,” Gilley said.

Gilley said that she wants to help make a change around campus and help students be more empathetic. She wants to help students realize that their words have meaning and that meaning does carry.

Gilley said that the school is getting better at diversity and inclusion, but it still needs to improve.

The school has made recent strides to be inclusive and encourage inclusivity around a predominantly white campus.

Faculty is working on making changes to the curriculum in order to better educate students on race since the death of George Floyd.

The department is also working on phasing out the Western Civilization class and replacing it with a world history class in order to become more inclusive and shift focus from western history alone.

These lectures are not required for any students, but Gilley said she recommends all students take the time to go to them either online through Facebook Live or in person.

“You’re not gonna change anybody’s mind by forcing them to hear a conversation,” Gilley said.



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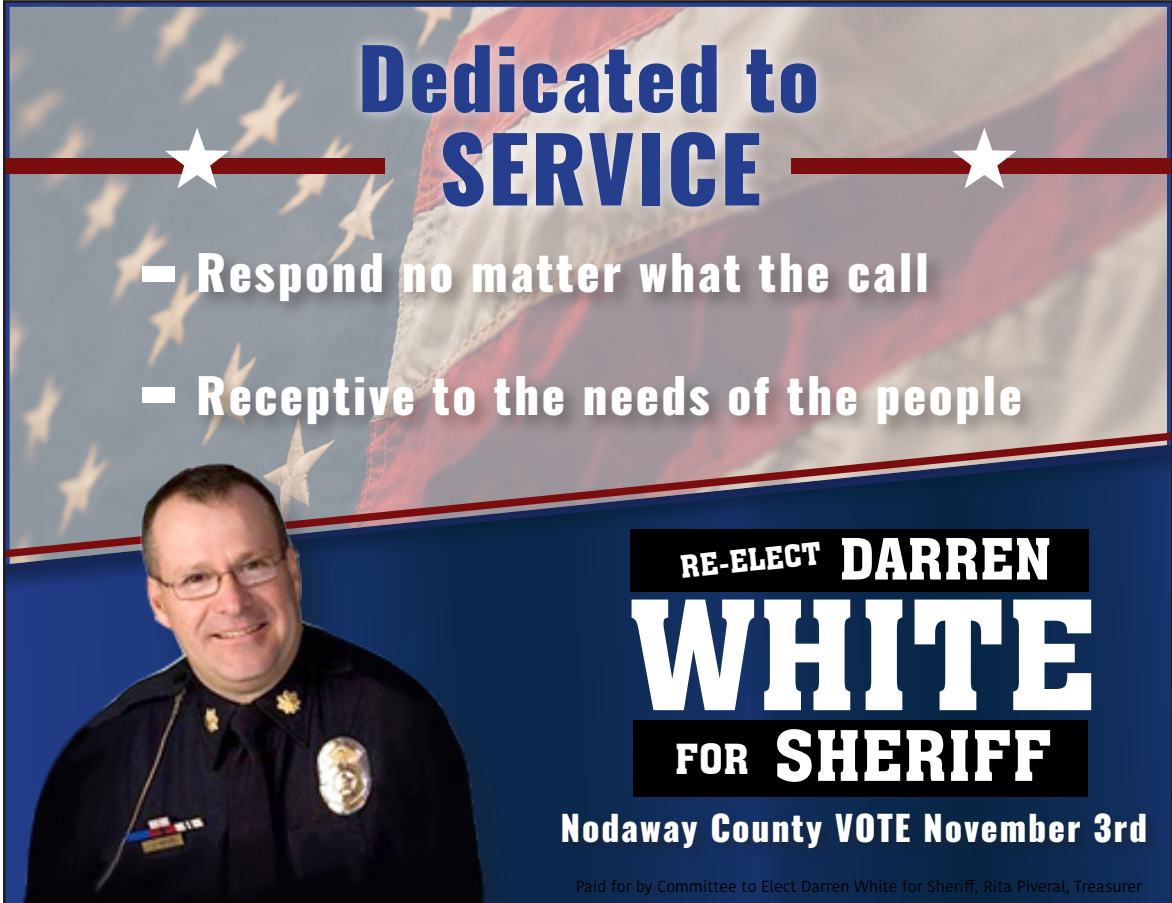
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NEW STANDARDS



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN
Two potential members of the Northwest club basketball team scrimmaging during tryouts. The new program held tryouts Sept. 2 from 7-9 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center to gather players for the upcoming season.

Student organizations forced to adapt to precautions, newly-implemented rules

SIDNEY LOWRY
Missourian Reporter | @sidney_lowry

Life at Northwest has changed in the past few months for student organizations, who are not allowed to travel or host large in-person events. After the Student Organization fair Aug. 26, several students found themselves in clubs which have had to change the way they operate. Some moved to Zoom and other virtual platforms, others to outdoor and socially distanced meetings.

The Lighthouse, a Christian fellowship and worship club, used to meet off-campus during the week, but has since moved to on-campus events due to limited spacing. Despite the change in location, members said they believe this change has helped more than hurt their club.

“Honestly, holding events on campus has actually been a bit of a blessing in disguise,” Lighthouse member Ethan Dixon said. “We feel

like we’ve interacted with a lot more students this year because we are doing things on campus a lot more.”

Not only is The Lighthouse having socially distanced meetings, but they are also streaming their worship to students who are quarantined or don’t feel comfortable attending the in person meeting.

Junior Kourtne Stenwall, a member of the Lighthouse publicity team, said she thinks the organization is doing well at keeping students safe. “The only thing we as students can do now is respect these guidelines on and off campus,” Stenwall said.

Instead of having socially distanced meetings, other clubs have taken the route of using Zoom almost exclusively to meet with their members.

The Student Activities Council is one of the larger clubs on campus, and they have been participating in weekly zoom meetings at 5 p.m. on Thursday nights to reach out to their new and returning members. On top

of online meetings, the events that SAC is planning to host are undergoing heavy changes.

“Almost all of our events are being modified or moved online. We are trying our hardest to cut down on in-person events and events that we can’t social distance at,” Vice President Hannah Lucas said.

SAC, which is known for organizing in-person gatherings, is now having to fit every event into the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and changing their plans accordingly.

“The big events will be spaced appropriately and we will require everyone to wear masks. They will be a little different because we have had to change some locations and details, but ultimately they will still be fun events to attend,” Lucas said.

Not having the option to zoom or properly social distance, some club sports are having to do their best with the changes being made to the way

they practice and host tryouts. Men’s Club basketball had tryouts Sept. 2 and wore masks throughout because the group couldn’t social distance the entirety of practice.

All organizations have to abide by University standards, and one of these rules is not being able to travel. The Sigma Society, an organization for sisterhood and volunteer service, says this has cancelled some of their plans for the semester.

“We aren’t able to go and do our smaller events at the humane society, or gather and go out to clean the highway,” Co-Recruitment Chair Junior Catherine Evans said. “We normally travel, but we understand that we need to follow these rules to stay safe.”


Despite all the changes organizations are making due to the coronavirus, most are finding a way around it to let new and returning members attend meetings and help plan events.

Worship in Maryville

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
Sundays:
8:30 a.m. online worship @
Facebook.com/ FCCMaryvilleMO
9 a.m. Discipleship Classes
10:30 a.m. Worship
201 West Third, Maryville
660.582.4101
Rev. Craig Kirby-Grove
Campus contact: Deena Poynter
660.541.1336
www.fccmaryvillemo.com
fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com

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Dale Baker, Pastor
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Email - fbcmaryvillemo@gmail.com
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CRIME LOG

for the week of Sept. 3

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Sept. 5
There is an open investigation for domestic assault at Lot 10.

Sept. 4
There was a closed investigation for four liquor law violations at Dieterich Hall.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Sept. 5
A summons was issued to **Enrique Rodriquez**, 25, for not having a valid driver's license on the 1200 block of North Main Street.

Sept. 4
A summons was issued to **Jeremy D. Bradshaw**, 39, for improper display of license plates and failure to maintain financial responsibility on the 300 block of East 16th Street.

Sept. 2
There is an ongoing investigation for a lost or stolen license plate on the 200 block of West Jenkins Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for theft of trash services on the 1300 block of North Main Street.

Sept. 1
A summons was issued to **Scott A. David**, 55, for disorderly conduct on the 1600 block of South Main Street.

Aug. 30
There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 300 block of North Market Street.
A summons was issued to **Christi L. Brown**, 29, Darlington, Missouri, for theft of trash services on the 1300 block of North Main Street.

Aug. 29
A summons was issued to **Josef W. Keilholz**, 20, for minor in possession and failure to maintain the right half of the roadway on the 100 block of West Ninth Street.
A summons was issued to **Stefanie J. Smith**, 20, for improper registration and failure to register a motor vehicle on the 1400 block of West Ninth Street.
A summons was issued to **Jacqueline P. Powell**, 28, for not having a valid driver's license and failure to register a motor vehicle on the 600 block of East Seventh Street.

Aug. 27
There is an ongoing investigation for an accidental firearm discharge on the 300 block of East Fifth Street.

Aug. 23
A summons was issued to **Michelle L. Gascoigne**, 43, for possession of marijuana on the 1200 block of West 19th Street.

CASES

CONTINUED FROM A1

“I always was bracing myself,” Patterson said. “I’m like, ‘Is tomorrow our first 80 day or 100 day or 150 day?’ But that hasn’t happened, so any day that we get through and that’s not happening, you know, whenever you’re in the middle of that, you’ll grasp on to anything to be optimistic.”
For the first time since close to 7,000 Northwest students converged on the county, Patterson and the health department seem to be catching a break. After two cases trickled in Sept. 8 — the latest available data point at the time of publication — the county’s 7-day rolling average for daily positive cases had dropped to 11.71, down from 29.43 Aug. 28.
Patterson said the Health department office, where he’s weathered dizzying workdays over the last four weeks as the county’s case load ballooned, remained quiet Sept. 9. He’d expected a rush in positive cases might have flooded in from the Labor Day weekend, but instead, the workload remained still.
The county’s active case count, which peaked at 275 a week ago, has dwindled to 154, while active cases involving Northwest staff and students have declined to 58 from 189 Aug. 31.
“We knew there would be cases, and maybe an increase here and then a decrease there,” University President John Jasinski said Sept.

3. “As the days go by, we’re gonna have more and more coming off of quarantine — coming out of quarantine, coming out of isolation. They may be replaced by somebody in isolation or quarantine.”
In the days since Jasinski spoke with reporters following Northwest’s latest Board of Regents meeting, it’s unclear how many total students or county residents have exited quarantine, though the University’s on-campus isolation and quarantine bed capacity has increased.
More than 86% of Northwest’s isolation beds are available, as of Sept. 8, an increase of more than 15% since Sept. 3, according to the University’s COVID-19 dashboard. On-campus quarantine bed availability has increased from 63.16% to 68.42% in the same time frame, while active on-campus cases have plummeted to 13.
The decrease in active cases both at Northwest and throughout Nodaway County has come as testing rates have remained mostly level, Patterson said, though he said he didn’t have specific testing data in front of him. The health department announced 20% of tests reported Sept. 8 were positive, marking the second time the statistic was reported in the agency’s daily COVID-19 update.
If anything, Patterson said, testing levels have increased, as the county gets set to host a community testing event Sept. 14 in a partnership with the Missouri National Guard.
“Which means if we’re seeing

— if we see a trend towards less cases and we’re still maintaining that level of testing, that’s even more of a positive thing,” Patterson said. “I don’t think there’s — there hasn’t been a drop off (in testing). The only thing, if there has been, I’d attribute that to the holiday and the weekend.”
Patterson said he can’t explain the reduction in cases over the last week or so, but he expected cases to level out at some point. He’s not sure that what the county is experiencing right now is really the flattening of a curve. He’s waiting for more data, he said.

11.71

Nodaway county’s 7-day rolling average for positive cases

The administrator isn’t sure how much time has to pass to know the validity of the decline in cases. A week would be good, Patterson said, and two weeks would be even better. A full month would provide more context for what the last week or so of COVID-19 reports has brought to Nodaway County, where Patterson continues his optimistic attack on the virus he said he learns more about every day.
“We’re always just kind of feeling our way here,” Patterson said. “But it’s a good thing — that’s a good trend.”



Maryville High School started the school year back up Aug. 31. The district went into Labor Day weekend with five positive cases and came back Monday with 10 cases.

ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

MARYVILLE

CONTINUED FROM A1

For high school students who chose to engage in online learning at the beginning of the school year, their classes remain completely separate from changes made with adjustments to the hybrid model.
The school board and administration moved to a hybrid instruction model taking into account that the coronavirus was accounting for close to a 7% absent rate after the second week of classes.
The high school continues to experience the highest rate of absence since classes began, where its students account for at least 44 of the 128 district-wide quarantined students as of Sept. 9.
For transparency in district COVID-19 data, Albrecht emails families in the Maryville R-II district updates every Friday and posts an update on the school’s COVID-19 information page the same day. Though this limits the updates to weekly occurrences, Albrecht said it still provides families with the information they need to know.
“It’s a number that’s hard to give out because, honestly, it changes constantly,” Albrecht said. “Situations, factors, considerations, numbers — they change so fast. It really is hard to keep up to date on things, and even the guidance that we’re given changes frequently.”
The district went into Labor Day weekend Sept. 4 with five positive

COVID-19 cases and came back Monday with 10, doubling the positive cases in just three days.
The Nodaway County Health Department COVID-19 dashboard shows people from ages 10 to 19 years old are the second largest grouping of positive COVID-19 cases, with a total of 157.
Albrecht said school officials remain hopeful, however, and despite the numbers, are confident hybrid instruction will allow for better contact tracing and ease the anxiety of students attending in person.
“Stress is affecting the kids, the staff and the community,” Albrecht said in a Zoom meeting with the Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce. “Students have been very anxious and distracted. We are hoping to ease those fears in class with this model.”
Albrecht explained in the Zoom meeting that Maryville R-II will continue sports practices as they were operating before the switch to a hybrid model, but that practices will be recorded for contact tracing.
Football practices and other outdoor sports can be recorded with a drone, and indoor practices will be recorded with cameras in the gymnasium.
The high school plans to continue operating under the hybrid model until at least Oct. 16, which is the end of the first quarter. At that time, the board will review the situation at that time and make a decision for operations going forward.

Hy-Vee offers drive-thru vaccines

ZANE CULJAT
News Reporter | @BoomerZane

As the coronavirus continues leaving its mark in the county, some are concerned the addition of the cold and flu season could create a healthcare crisis.
To combat this, Hy-Vee’s Maryville location is providing flu vaccines one of two ways. As usual, shots are provided by appointment at the store’s pharmacy. This year, though, vaccines are also available being offered on a drive-thru basis.
Trent Stumpf, pharmacy manager at Hy-Vee in Maryville, said now is the time to get vaccinated.
“We’re approaching the ideal time to vaccinate against the flu,” Stumpf said. “There’s no doubt it’s one of the best ways you can protect yourself and others.”
The drive-thru parking lot clinic is open now and runs through Oct. 31. Vaccines are available Mondays from 7-11 a.m.; Thursdays from 3-7 p.m.; and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stumpf said patients will need to have a completed informed consent form and applicable insurance on their person.
“Most insurances, including Medicare Part B, will completely cover the cost of the flu shot,” Stumpf said. “We’ll bill your insurance before we vaccinate.”
Getting the flu does not neces-

sarily lend itself toward increased susceptibility to the coronavirus, but Stumpf said fighting both simultaneously could benefit one’s immune system.
“I’m not an expert in this area, but it makes sense,” Stumpf said. “If you’re fighting an additional antigen such as the flu, which causes respiratory problems, and then contract COVID on top of that, you’d certainly put more pressure on your immune system.”
While the world continues to wait for a COVID-19 vaccine, Stumpf said flu vaccines are generally effective through the entirety of flu season — another reason he believes it’s important to receive them as soon as possible to stay ahead of the curve.
“According to most literature we look at, flu vaccines stay effective for five or six months,” Stumpf said.
Per guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, between 194 and 198 million flu vaccines are expected to be put to use this season. Stumpf said, for that reason, he doesn’t foresee issues this winter in regards to supply.
“I can’t give a number on the limitations on how many people we can vaccinate in a day,” Stumpf said. “We’ve never met our lim-



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

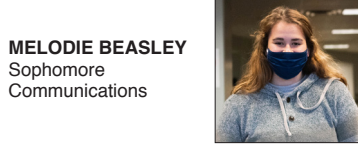
Maryville’s Hy-Vee is offering a drive-thru flu shot parking lot service three days a week through Oct. 31. Getting the flu shot now can help people stay ahead of the curve of flu season.

it in the past. ... We move people through workflow as rapidly as we can, but staffing issues and other unforeseen circumstances can always bring a challenge. We do the

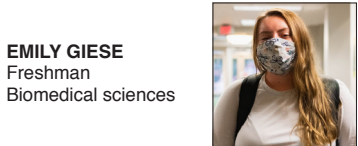
best we can to put the right staff in the right places to make patients’ experiences at Hy-Vee good ones.”
Those who prefer being vaccinated inside during normal phar-

macy hours can do so, Stumpf said, so long as a pharmacist is available. Bring your gas card as well — flu shots earn a 20-cent per gallon discount at the pump.

YOUR VIEW:
Should teachers be able to bypass quarantine if they're asymptomatic and wear a mask?



“No, because they still have COVID, so why would they come and expose everybody else? Like, you’re still getting exposed to it. I feel like since students still have to quarantine even if they’re asymptomatic as well because of whether they have been exposed or they just have it, they still have to quarantine, so I don’t think that it’s fair.”



“I’m going to say no because they still have it, and it doesn’t really matter if they’re not showing symptoms because they’re still carrying it. So I think that they should still have to quarantine.”

THE STROLLER:
Your Bearcat hates group projects

You’d think that in the middle of a global pandemic and social distancing orders, being forced into random groups for assignments would take a break. Nope. Not here. Instead, some of my in-person and online courses have major group projects.

Here’s the problem with randomly assigned groups — all of it. All I can say is, I don’t want to work with people I don’t know, I don’t wanna fix everyone else’s careless mistakes, and I sure don’t wanna meet up at the library at 8 p.m. the night before the project is due. But that’s exactly what happens every time.

Can we talk about how awkward it is before the group hierarchy is established? You know, when the slacker is still kinda involved and no one has clearly become the unspoken leader. And that’s the worst part for me honestly, when you realize you’re probably going to have to take charge despite not wanting to at all. It happens Every. Single. Time. It always starts with you pitching an idea or two, but by the end of it, each piece of the project gets approved by you.

And oh, have you ever had beef with a team member? It’s so annoying, like we’re all supposed to be grown and you’re in the GroupMe starting arguments about how the Google Doc is formatted — I don’t care. But no. I want to get a good grade so I’m forced to carry the team. That’s the way it goes. That’s the way it always will go, too. The leaders will lead, the slackers will slack, and they’ll all lie on their peer reviews.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:
County endangering students, faculty by removing precautions

Nodaway County as a whole has been far from an example of how to handle COVID-19. Actually, it’s been the exact opposite, with the county firmly labeled by the New York Times coronavirus database as a hotspot. The desire to pursue a sense of normalcy has led to this, and now the Nodaway County Commission has stripped precautions for faculty in its 17 schools. Faculty that have been contact traced will be able to return to work in order to keep in-person school going. This will most assuredly only further the problem.

The Nodaway County Commission made a declaration that allows faculty who have been contact traced to return to work given they wear a mask, follow social distancing guidelines and are asymptomatic. This round-a-bout logic is the reason we are having such an issue in the first place.

COVID-19 has been able to spread so easily due, in part, to asymptomatic carriers. New studies have found that asymptomatic carriers have the same amount of the virus in their systems as those who show symptoms. These carriers may never develop symptoms but are still capable of spreading the virus to others. Teachers who have been exposed to a positive case and never develop symptoms could still be capable of spreading the virus to other faculty and students.

With this new declaration, a faculty member doesn’t even need to be fully asymptomatic either. Symptoms for the coronavirus have an incubation period of two to 14 days, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The person in question could be contact traced and not feel anything for a week or two, all while having the virus in their system and endangering those around them.

The pursuit to keep schools in person is a noble one, but that pursuit shouldn’t promote the removal of carefully placed guide-

lines that experts say will limit the spread of COVID-19. Humans as a whole tend to think in the present and that’s how we approach solutions. Sure, having asymptomatic faculty that came in contact with a positive case return to work will keep schools open in the short term, but it will expose more students and faculty which will only multiply the problem long term.

This declaration by the county commission is a smaller version of what’s been happening with Missouri’s leadership in terms of dealing with the pandemic. Gov. Mike Parson has been determined to keep regulations light in order to keep the economy working. The result of those light regulations, however, was more cases and more people staying at home which means less economic growth. It’s kicking the can further down the road and making the can larger at the same time. The Nodaway County Commission is doing the same thing, and it’s endangering the lives of faculty and students.

The pandemic has been littered with examples of it only taking one person to defy proper guidelines for an outbreak to start in an area. Nodaway County is encouraging proper guidelines to be disregarded which will only increase the likelihood of school closures.

We don’t have enough information. There aren’t years of data on the coronavirus or doctors who have been studying it for decades. That’s why there is an abundance of caution because we continue to learn more every day. We still don’t know the actual transmission rate, the long-term effects or if a vaccine will even work.

We do know, however, that people that come in contact with a positive case should isolate themselves for others’ safety. The Nodaway County Commission has decided to ignore this fact to keep schools going. They are only further endangering faculty and students with their ignorance, saving the schools’ present by sacrificing schools’ future.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:
Associate provost addresses race on campus



After reading the opinion pieces printed in the Northwest Missourian during the last two weeks, I am responding in my role as the leader of the University’s Diversity and Inclusion office. Through the course of events in our country this summer, more people have been able to identify with the concept of systemic racism. They have heard terms such as privilege, white privilege and oppression, but I am not sure everyone understands how ingrained systemic racism and oppression is in our formal and informal society.

The authors of both the letter and the original column made generalized statements related to race, while the letter to the editor printed last week also included microaggressive statements that should be addressed and discussed with the author. The generalizations stated in each piece made it clear that we, as a community, need to evaluate our focus to ensure we are moving in the right direction.

If the goal is to end racism itself, that is not going to happen until there is equal focus on addressing the problematic systems which were founded upon and uphold the principles of racism. Our focus should be on addressing the systemic racism that exists at Northwest and in the city of Maryville.

In my opinion, the problem of systemic racism stems from two things. First, government and societal rules were built from an oppressive system. The past cannot be changed, but it can be acknowledged. I believe people are not inherently bad; all of us were born into a society built to support some and hold back others. Secondly, I hope most people would agree that we should live in an equitable world. I commend the people who are open to having these conversations. It is super important.

However, it is also important to know that after the acknowledgement, talking about social justice is the beginning. There is a difference between not being racist or oppressive and being anti-racist or anti-oppressive. Just because we have the conversation from time to time does not mean we are solving issues related to systemic racism.

The frustrating part for our

marginalized students at Northwest is they do not choose when these conversations happen and when they are important. Rather, it is important all of the time, and it affects them all of the time, while majority students can go back to their “normal” lives that are inherently built and systemically supported for them.

“If we truly believe in change, then we need to attack systemic racism.”
- JUSTIN MALLETT

I have spent a lot of my professional life thinking about how I can help others before I realized that being an educator is about supporting students to be able to help themselves. What causes are you helping? And are you really helping? If we all truly believe in change, then we need to attack

systemic racism. We need to recognize systemic racism. Vocalizing, not perpetuate it and fight it at its root. If you are not helping to break and change the system, you are accepting the consequences of systemic racism and not confronting the root of these problems. This means that systemic racism will persist and continue. Therefore, if we are going to address systemic racism at Northwest and in Maryville, it must be done together. We must address the root issues, not just the surface level issues. The opinion pieces in The Missourian in recent weeks have shown us that there is more work to be done. We must shift our focus to identifying systemic racism at our University and community by dismantling and reforming the root causes of systemic racism. I invite you to contact me to understand the actions we are taking at Northwest to identify, address and take action toward systemic racism, which affects our underrepresented populations. This is how transformative change happens, and it must start with all of us.
- Justin Mallett
Associate Provost of Diversity and Inclusion

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PART-TIME STUDENT FULL-TIME PARENT



JUSTIN RANKIN | SUBMITTED
Justin Rankin holds his son on the sidelines of Bearcat Stadium. Rankin hopes his son will follow in his footsteps to use his passion on the football field.

Northwest students and alumni do both

ABIGAIL STARR
News Reporter | @abbeystarr5

Being a college student in 2020 has many challenges. Between facing uncertainty around safety, coping with financial stress and learning time management, young adults are often overwhelmed. Some have the added obstacles of parenthood. Junior Alysa Johnson’s pregnancy came as a shock to her.

“I was just talking with my mother-in-law about it one day and thought, ‘I’ll just take a test,’ and it came back positive, and I was shocked,” Johnson said. “Now I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Johnson was starting her junior year at Northwest when she found out she was pregnant with her daughter Eliza. Johnson married Eliza’s dad that same month. Johnson leaned on her adviser Marcus McGee for extra guidance during an uncertain time.

“I actually had the same due date as my advisor’s wife, so we con-

nected over that, and he helped a lot,” Johnson said. “It seemed impossible, but I knew I wasn’t going to give up my education.”

Eliza was born in March 2019. Johnson had eight weeks of maternity leave from work and four weeks maternity leave from school. During that time, she kept up with her classes online, trying not to fall behind.

“Time management was key,” Johnson said. “I was also dealing with postpartum depression which was hard. The biggest thing was taking time for myself.”

When Johnson got a call that Eliza spiked a fever, she was forced to miss her presentation. Johnson was able to make up the points with no questions asked from her professor. Eliza was hospitalized at two months old for a double ear infection that led to a respiratory infection.

“I had to be there for her,” Johnson said. “I was just thankful she was okay, and I made up the work later.”

Childcare is one of the many

challenges student parents face that other students do not. Nearly half of student parents reported paying for child care, with monthly costs averaging about \$490, according to the U.S. Accountability Office. Along with daycare, Johnson’s family and husband make up the rest of her support system. With six brothers and sisters and even more step-siblings, Johnson has many built-in babysitters.

“My mom picks her up from daycare once a week when I have sorority meetings. That’s Eliza’s grandma time, and my mom loves that,” Johnson said.

Johnson’s life has been exhausting and exciting over the last year with the addition of Eliza to her family.

“I definitely miss sleep,” Johnson said. “It’s so fun watching her grow. My husband would say she gets her looks from him and her attitude from me.”

Johnson is a senior this year and is looking forward to graduating with her bachelor’s degree in psychology. Until then, she plans on being a mom, student, wife and a veterinarian technician.

According to a survey conducted by the American Association of Community Colleges, one in five undergraduate students is a parent. Women are disproportionately likely to be balancing college and parenthood. Women make up 71% of all student parents, and 43 of the total student parent population are single mothers. Single student fathers make up 11% of the student parent population.

Chama Pierre is a single father who graduated from Northwest this year with a degree in corporate recreation. His son Taylen is 3 years old now, keeping Dad on his toes.

“The terrible twos aren’t over really, but we’ve learned how to deal with them,” Pierre said.

With Chama’s family in Florida, he and Taylen’s mother have found a way to make it work so they can have jobs and time with Taylen.

“Communication between you and your kid’s other parent is huge. You can’t get ahead of yourself, but you have to have a game plan,” Pierre said.

The two parents work around each other’s work schedule to create time for Taylen. In August 2019, 44% of student parents worked full-time, sometimes in addition to taking courses like Johnson and Pierre.

During his time at Northwest, Pierre played cornerback for Northwest football, balancing parenting and a full course with the rigors that come with being a college athlete.

“My friends and coaches were there for me and supported me,” Pierre said.

Pierre admits he was fearful despite the support when he learned he was going to be a dad.

“It was pretty nerve-racking in the beginning, but I got to a point where I just had to say it is what it is and take it one day at a time,”



ALYSA JOHNSON | SUBMITTED
Alysa Johnson says Eliza loves to learn new things everywhere she goes, even at the park.



CHAMA PIERRE | SUBMITTED
Chama Pierre enjoys his weekends with Taylen, making the most of father-son time.

Pierre said.

From then on, Pierre did his best to keep up in school and prepare for fatherhood. He didn’t share the news he was expecting with many, focusing on becoming a better version of himself.

“I was always someone who appreciated things in life, but then when Taylen was born, I learned how important it is to be responsible. Every choice I make I think of him now,” Pierre said.

Before Taylen was born, Pierre didn’t do much more than school and football. He sees Taylen as a needed addition to his routine.

“I had a lot of free time before Taylen. Now, I don’t even have time to sleep,” Pierre laughed.

Northwest graduate Justin Rankin is another single father who welcomed his son into the world his freshman year of college.

“I love him to death, and even though he wasn’t planned, I wouldn’t give him up for anything,” Rankin said.

At the time of his son, Justin Rankin Jr.’s birth, Rankin was attending college in Ohio pursuing a degree in anthropology. He switched to Northwest to play football and continue his education.

“My professors would let me bring him to class and the coaches would watch him during practice,” Rankin said. “My support system is huge.”

Rankin Jr. started preschool this

week with proper safety measures in place to keep him healthy. The two are growing up together, learning new responsibilities and handling challenges together.

“I love watching him learn new things,” Rankin said. “I wanted to keep going to school to be a role model for him and show him the right things to do in life.”

Rankin admits fatherhood has its challenges, even in the beginning.

“One time, I left him in the car. I forgot I have this person who needs me all the time,” Rankin said. “The best you can do is just be there for your kids. They don’t remember the money you spent; they remember the time you spent.”

These parents used their children as motivation to follow their dreams of earning a college degree. This is rare according to a 2019 study by the United States Accountability Office, which states 52% of parent students leave school without a degree.

College students across the country continue to defy the odds and earn their degrees while raising families. In 2019, 3% of student parents earned their undergraduate degree at a four-year institute. Bearcat student parents hope to do the same while being a part of their children’s lives.

“I just love to see her smile and grow,” said Johnson. “I hate how fast she grows; I don’t want to miss anything.”

Still on track

Northwest runner stays course, learns about himself while a Bearcat

TANNER SMITH
Sports Reporter I @t_smit02

Tucker Dahle, senior cross country and track and field athlete, has found who he is not only as an athlete, but as a person at Northwest.



Coming from St. Joseph, Missouri, Dahle found a second home in Maryville. During his recruiting process coming out of high school, he fell in love with Northwest the minute he stepped foot on campus.

For Dahle, the academic opportunities, atmosphere and the chance to compete in cross country and track and field appealed to him.

“The team had just come off of competing at a national level when I was being recruited,” Dahle said. “I felt the program was going in the right direction and all the guys were well-rounded.”

Dahle is going into his senior year in both sports, but with the MIAA canceling fall sports, he does not know whether he will be competing in his last year of cross country.

“It was tough to hear the news of fall sports being cancelled, or even postponed to the spring,” Dahle said. “Luckily, I will be able to compete in track and field when the time comes in the spring.”

Dahle has improved his running ability during his time at Northwest. Competing in regional and national tournaments allowed him to showcase his talents among

some of the best runners at the Division II level.

“Culture was established early on when I got on campus, allowing me to know my role and what I needed to do to get better and help the team,” Dahle said. “I feel I always needed to perfect anything I could so that when it came time to compete, I would let it all play out.”

With athletics set aside, Dahle is a bio-psych major and hopes to pursue a career in that field upon graduation. In his studies, Dahle has been able to meet and interact with people from all different backgrounds.

“I feel I have improved in being an athlete and as a person in general,” Dahle said. “I have learned more about myself here in Maryville as a person, teammate and a friend, meeting people from all different backgrounds and allowing myself to learn and grow.”

With the fall season of cross country being put on hold, Dahle and his teammates are still able to practice and push towards a possible cross country season in the spring. Practices started back up the week of Sept. 7. Throughout the upcoming weeks, coach Brandon Masters looks to put the team in the right direction for the spring.

“Practices are starting now, and as a team, we are looking to put a lot of miles on legs this fall,” Dahle said. “We will be able to focus on event specific stuff and get prepared for what is coming in the future.”



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest senior runner Tucker Dahle starts practice by taking a few laps around the track in Bearcat Stadium. Dahle feels like he not only has improved as an athlete while at Northwest, but as a person as well.



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest football's senior defensive lineman Sam Roberts works out in apparel that the Bearcats received as a part of the partnership with Adidas. Adidas will outfit Northwest Athletics through the 2026 school year.

Northwest Athletics inks new contract with Adidas

DALTON TRUSSELL
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

Adidas has been outfitting Northwest Athletics for most of the last decade.



Northwest Athletics announced Aug. 31 it extended its partnership with Adidas through the 2026 school year.

“Partnering with the Adidas brand allows Northwest to continue its commitment to excellence and provide a stellar student-athlete experience,” Northwest Director of Athletics Andy Peterson said in a press release. “Mike, Billy and Mikey from MB2 Sports have been and will continue to be tremendous partners for our coaches, staff and student-athletes.”

Peterson said the decision to renew with Adidas was one that has been in the works from the beginning. It’s something that the other companies could not give us.

“Going through a bid process, Adidas answered the bid way back when we first partnered with them,” Peterson said. “Adidas had the right bid; they had the discounts on all the gear that we needed.”

Along with the apparel deal, Peterson said he was more than happy to continue business with the crew at MB2 Sports, a company out of Kansas City, Missouri, that serves as an intermediary between the two parties.

There were other top-name companies that also placed a bid for the deal with Northwest. None of them compared to the deal that Adidas offered to remain the official outfitter of the Bearcats.

“Both Nike and Under Armour have also placed bids,” Peterson said. “But with the discounts and amenities that Adidas offered, it was easy to renew the contract and not just cut ties with Adidas.”

Peterson said companies all

strive to be the official athletic wear of the Bearcats because of all the success that has accompanied sports programs on campus.

The deal, Peterson said, isn’t necessarily one that has a set dollar amount, such as Division I schools have in place with major brands.

“It’s more of discounts and comp dollars,” Peterson said. “The partnership works more like a ‘We help you and you help us’ relationship.”

As can be seen in the Bearcat Bookstore, different brands such as Nike and Under Armour have merchandise all throughout campus. This has nothing to do with Northwest Athletics as Barnes and Noble supplies the store.

Peterson said that the bookstore is talking to Barnes and Noble to receive more Adidas apparel in an attempt to show the three-striped brand how much Northwest Athletics values the relationship.

JAKE CONTINUED FROM A10

At the time, Walker didn’t think much of it. Moving away from the curtains and props, he had some time to reflect on the types of people he was surrounded by. Walker appreciates the comradery that comes with having a teammate that doesn’t quite correlate with having a co-star.

Walker has since returned his focus to athletics and something that will challenge him much more than he said acting will.

“With acting, I know I’m probably okay at this. I can probably put this on the back burner for now,” Walker said. “Let me go and try and do something way more challenging, that I can push myself as an athlete and as a person in general.”

Being around thespians, Walker noticed his personality had changed compared to when he was surrounded by athletes every day.

“Being away from theater has changed me significantly as a person,” Walker said. “I like me now, better than what I did six months ago.”

Commitment is what sets Walker apart from his peers and what he credits his success to. When Walker got his role of Buddy, he spent a lot of time memorizing the lines and going over sound cues, and he said it would show in rehearsal. Walker said he would be able to recite his Act 1 lines without hesitation, while everybody else had to call out for their lines.

With theater now out of his line of interests, Walker has laced his running shoes back up and rejoined his teammates on the cross country course. Along the path, he’s picked up another, more unorthodox interest — cheerleading.

“My friends gave me a time and place, and I showed up,” Walker said. “It was one of those things where I felt out of place at 6 in the morning, and then at 6:02 a.m., I felt like I was part of the family.”

One of the burdens a senior in high school carries is finding scholarships for college. Through cheerleading, Walker’s burden could be lightened.

“A lot of people have been telling us, ‘There’s a lot of scholarships out there,’” Walker said. “So, maybe that’s a possibility. We’ll see how things go, and if I get offered a scholarship to cheer at Northwest or somewhere else, then hey, maybe I can take it.”

Balancing one sport and school is hard enough to handle for any

student-athlete. The weight of doing two sports in one year is exhausting. So, balancing the weight of two sports in one season teters on the brink of impossible.

Walker will have to develop a system that helps him harmonize his activities, and cross country coach Rodney Bade is being flexible in order for his athlete to be at his best.

“We have to remember to throttle him back sometimes, and that’s my job,” Bade said. “Right now, he’s ready to do it all. That’s great, but our experience with high school kids is that sometimes they bite off more than they can chew.”

Bade is most concerned about Walker’s fatigue level as both football and cross country season kick into high gear. Being a cheerleader, Walker will have to travel with the football team sometimes two hours away for a game and return late at night. Being a cross country runner, Walker will have to wake up early on Saturday mornings to travel for meets.

Bade is allowing Walker to miss a few Friday practices in order for him to rest or leave early with the cheer team for games, in addition to not requiring Walker to attend Saturday long runs for the same reason. Rest is going to be of utmost importance with how often Walker’s body will be running, lifting and screaming during each seven-day stretch this semester.

“He’s going to be out on Friday nights later than a lot of the guys should be,” Bade said. “When we turn around and have a Saturday meet, I’m going to be real aware of how much sleep he’s getting. If (the cheer team) travels to Chillicothe, for example, they won’t come home until 11 o’clock or midnight, then we turn around and leave at 6 a.m. That’s tough.”

Ultimately, Bade is leaving the decision in Walker’s hands. The only time Bade said he plans on stepping in would be closer to the district meet at the closing of this season. Even then, he’s going to ask how Walker feels about skipping a football game rather than prohibiting him from attending.

Walker is eager to improve from where he left off sophomore year, when he was the ‘Hounds No. 5 runner and closing in on his personal goal of running a 5,000-meter race in under 20 minutes. Walker also expressed a sting in missing out on going to state with the team last season, but is looking forward to helping his team return again this season.

COVID-19 hits Spoofhounds’ depth

TANNER SMITH
Sports Reporter | @t_smit02

Maryville volleyball is looking to continue its dominance to start the season, despite losing starters in their rotation to quarantine.

The 'Hounds are currently sitting at 2-0 on the year without losing a set. They started their season with a sweep of Benton and followed that with a sweep of East Buchanan.

Three hours before the season started, the program found out that sophomore Rylee Vierthaler would miss time due to being in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Days later, senior Jordyn Suchan was ruled out after being in close contact with a carrier of COVID.

“I was really bummed out when I got the news,” Suchan said. “It is my senior year, and now I will be missing out on five games.”

With the loss of two starters, the 'Hounds will look to other key girls in their lineup. The varsity team has explored the options of bringing up talent from the junior varsity team, but it is a work in progress.

“It is definitely frustrating because it is all out of our control,” senior libero Klarysa Stoltle said. “Although, I think it gives us even more motivation to win, for the

girls who are stuck at home watching from their phones.”

Before finding out she was going to have to sit out, Suchan had scored one point and had gone 57% percent on serves. Being an outside hitter, she had not seen much time at the net to score.

“I think the team will have to make some adjustments, but I definitely believe they’ll be prepared,” Suchan said. “We have a strong group of girls, so I know there will be someone to step up and fill the position.”

The 'Hounds came into the 2020 season with the understanding from MSHSAA that there are guidelines set to keep the girls safe. With a lot of uncertainty in the air as to what is going to happen with the rest of the season, the 'Hounds look to compete each opportunity they get.

“We didn’t even expect to make it this far in the season,” Stoltle said. “We figured MSHSAA would have shut us down by now.”

What lies ahead for Maryville volleyball is a matchup against Bishop Leblond Sept. 10 in the 'Hound Pound.

“Even with the short numbers, I am confident in saying that we can find a way to make things work, because we all have the same end goal on this team,” Stoltle said. “I think the best we can do is communicate through these sketchy circumstances and know we have one goal in mind.”



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN
Maryville volleyball prepared to resume action after a timeout during the first match of the season against Benton Aug. 31 in the 'Hound Pound. The Spoofhounds defeated the Cardinals with a 3-0 sweep for their first win of the year.

Northwest tennis looks to take advantage of lighting

TRISTAN LYNCH
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

For most student-athletes, finding time to fit training and workouts sessions into a schedule is a challenging task — especially when the court doesn’t have lights.

This was a challenge that the Northwest men’s and women’s tennis teams had to face, but not anymore.

With the new installation of lights at the Mark Rosewell Tennis Center and Frank Grube Courts on the campus of Northwest, the tennis teams got the ability to use the courts later into the night.

During a phone interview Sept. 1, tennis coach Mark Rosewell talked about how beneficial the new lights are for the team.

“We play in early March, in spring, so we lose a lot of light due to daylight saving,” Rosewell said. “Starting practice earlier in the day makes it hard with classes, now having the lights it allows us to start practices later and help avoid missing classes.”

His athletes agreed that having the new lights help with scheduling practices and workouts around their busy schedule.

Junior Julia Aliseda, one of the

women’s tennis athletes, agreed with Rosewell and talked about how the lights benefit scheduling.

“We try to have all the classes in the morning, but sometimes some of us have classes until 3:00, 3:20,” Aliseda said. “So the lights give us more time if we come later and play later into the night.”

Along with scheduling, Aliseda said that having the lights allows them to practice during hours that they weren’t able to in the past.

Junior Franco Oliva, one of the men’s tennis athletes, is excited about being able to play later in the evening. As before, without the lights, longer games were a struggle to complete as they had no lights to illuminate the court.

“We also have to consider that a couple matches as they were so long, we would have to stop and travel like 30 to 40 minutes away to somewhere like St. Joseph and continue the match there,” Oliva said.

With the new lights, the team no longer will have to travel to St. Joseph, or anywhere else, to finish long-lasting matches as they can light up the court.

With the ability to play longer into the night, it also allows the teams to avoid the suffocating heat

of the summer and play later in the day when it is nicer, Rosewell said.

Oliva has already started to take advantage of the lights to avoid the heat, as he said he’s been taking the court in the late evening.

“Right now, it is pretty warm,” Oliva said. “So the other day I came like around 7:30 p.m. when it wasn’t pretty warm; it was perfect to practice.”

As the tennis teams receive much benefit from the new installation of the lights, Rosewell and the athletes are also excited for the new opportunities for the University and community as well.

“The lights are helpful for the team, the University and the community,” Rosewell said.

The new lights give students the opportunity to play tennis on their own time and schedule, getting them interested in the sport and possibly the team.

“They can come and play at any time they wanted, in the night or in the morning,” Aliseda said, “They have more access to tennis. They can play more tennis, see more tennis.”

Oliva has seen first hand how the University has taken to the new lights installed at the tennis courts.

“The other day, I came to the courts and saw that every court was full,” Oliva said. “Like, I saw a whole lot of people who aren’t on the team playing here at night.”

With all the benefits aside, the athletes hope that the community and the University will look to take advantage of the new lights and hopefully get more interested in the sport they love.

“For the University, students can see the lights and hopefully they can be more interested in tennis and they can come here and play and also see the team,” Aliseda said.

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Maryville prepares for MEC opener

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter I @CalvinSilvers

The Maryville football team has played Chillicothe 14 times since 2010. In those 14 games, the Spoofhounds have come out as victors 13 times, including a 49-12 win during the 2019 season.

The Spoofhounds (1-1) will look to push that mark to 14 wins in 15 games against the Hornets (0-2) Sept. 11 at the 'Hound Pound.

Coach Matt Webb knows recent success doesn't matter in rivalry games, as both teams will put full effort into bringing home the win.

"We're talking about this year. It's a great rivalry," Webb said. "Chillicothe has a proud tradition in their high school football. Every year is a great battle. It's a great game."

In the 2019 matchup, Spoofhound now senior running back Connor Weiss found himself in the Hornets' endzone twice, along with an interception.

While Weiss was sidelined in the first two games of this season due to COVID-19-related issues, his return to the field for the Week 3 matchup looks probable.

"Connor Weiss is an excellent football player, and hopefully we have him back," Webb said. "It'll be huge to get him involved in the run game again."

Weiss will accompany both senior Trey Houchin and sophomore Caden Stoecklein in the backfield when he returns. Stoecklein turned in an impressive performance in the Sept. 4 matchup against Harrisonville, when he racked up 310 yards on 18 carries with two touchdowns.

All three running backs will look to contribute to an efficient running game, as that was the Hornets' Achilles heel in last year's matchup. The Spoofhound offense ran the ball for 260 yards on the Chillicothe defense in 2019.

The running game starts up front, where standout offensive lineman Blake Casteel looks to



Maryville football senior wideout Caleb Kreizinger (3) leads the Spoofhounds out of the locker room before their home debut of the season Sept. 4 against Harrisonville in the Hound Pound. The Spoofhounds are looking to win 14 out of the last 15 games against Chillicothe Sept. 11 at the 'Hound Pound.

make his first appearance this year for the 'Hounds. Casteel's return should add a key piece to the trenches, as Chillicothe comes into the Week 3 matchup with an impressive defensive line. They're able to create havoc in the backfield by hitting the gaps due to their size and physicality.

Stoecklein having his best blocker return to lead him down the field is a Christmas present come early.

"I'm so excited to have Casteel back," Stoecklein said. "I'm excited to see what we can do on Friday."

Not only will the Spoofhounds be looking for an efficient offense,

but the defense is also looking to contribute. The defense allowed 40 points in Week 2, but held Harrisonville to 8 points in the first half. In Maryville's most recent matchup against Chillicothe, the Hornets scored 12 points.

"Our main focus on defense is getting off the field on third down," Webb said. "We're tackling better, we're winning the line of scrimmage, and we're playing with the right technique."

Against Harrisonville, senior linebacker Caleb Kreizinger found himself with an interception and a fumble recovery. He's hoping he and the team can continue this level of performance.

"Last week's game gave us the momentum we needed for upcoming games," Kreizinger said after the win against Harrisonville. "Last game we proved that we aren't going to give up ever again. That was a one-time thing, and we aren't going to do it ever again."

This matchup will be the first Midland Empire Conference action of the season for both teams. While Maryville won the MEC outright last season, Webb knows the importance of starting 1-0 in the conference.

"You want to be at the head of the pack and have everyone chasing after you throughout the conference season," Webb said. "The

MEC is a whole different animal. That's why it's important to start 1-0 in the MEC."

The Spoofhounds will have their second home game in a row, which is important for a couple of reasons. First, the Spoofhounds will be away for two straight games after the game with Chillicothe.

Second, Maryville will honor its 14 seniors, as it will be Senior Night at the 'Hound Pound.

"It'll be a great opportunity to honor a group of seniors who dedicated their high school careers to us and who had a lot of success," Webb said. "We'll be able to show what they've meant to us the past four seasons."



During practice, a player helps teammate up after a play. Platte Valley football is looking to have a positive record after starting the season 0-1. A win over North-West Nodaway Sept. 11 would push Platte Valley over the hump.

Platte Valley aims to bounce back against Muskets after slow start

MORGAN GUYER
Missourian Reporter I @GuyerMorgan30

There was a night and day difference between Week 1 and Week 2 when Platte Valley football left the field Sept. 4.

The program had just captured its first win of the season against Rock Port 40-36. It was a stark difference compared to a Week 1 loss to back-to-back state champion Mound City by a score of 50-0. Coach Cree Beverlin knows more than anyone how important that first win is.

"It's huge for us to get a win this early in the season," Beverlin said. "It legitimizes our program when we can beat a team like Rock Port."

In Week 3, Platte Valley will be looking forward to traveling to Northwest Nodaway for the first away game of the 2020 season. North-West Nodaway will have extra motivation following the 0-2 start to the season.

North-West Nodaway runs most of the offense through their dual threat quarterback Karson Oberhauser. He threw for 340 yards last season but led the way in rushing with 1,186 yards and 12 touchdowns.

North-West Nodaway adds Oberhauser to good weapons out of the backfield in senior running backs Gabe Goff and Cody Cline. Beverlin knows his team will need to be prepared this Friday.

"They have a lot of speed and athleticism," Beverlin said about North-west Nodaway. "I think they are fairly versatile, and their new coach is doing a good job with them."

Platte Valley will be confident after their defensive performance against Rock Port's star running back Joey Herron. Herron has run for over 2,500 yards in his two years as a starter, but he was held to just 68 yards rushing last week.

"It's great, our run defense is solid right now, but we've got a lot of good teams in the conference that we're going to have to keep proving ourselves to," Beverlin said.

North-West Nodaway will be looking for some revenge from last season's loss to Platte Valley 52-6.

Platte Valley's offense made drastic improvements from its Week 1 shutout and was led by notable performances from running back Jose Rivera and quarterback

Trever McQueen. Rivera finished with a career high 176 yards rushing and three touchdowns.

"Jose did a great job for us in Week 2, and he's going to have to continue to be an impactful player even when teams are planning for him," Beverlin said. "As coaches, we just have to put him in the right situation to make plays."

McQueen led the way with 77 yards passing and a score both passing and rushing. Beverlin knows how good his team can be when their quarterback is performing well, even if there's room for improvement.

"Trevor is doing a good job for us right now," Beverlin said. "However, we found some plays on Friday that we can improve on for Week 3."

The fate of Platte Valley's success this season hangs in the balance until they take on North-West Nodaway Sept. 11 in Hopkins.

"I expect us to come out against Northwest Nodaway and play tough football at a consistent level," Beverlin said. "We need to keep improving every week so that we're still competing at a high level at the end of the season."



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Maryville student balances activities

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs

At any high school in America, there are cliques of students who bond through similar extracurricular interests. Witnessing somebody outside of their unspoken faction is a rarity among high school students. Maryville senior Jake Walker is a rarity to witness. When Walker took his first step into Maryville High School, he was only involved in running. During his first two years, he was a member of Spoofohounds cross country in the fall and Spoofohounds track in the spring. However, behind his devotion to running was an itch growing for something outside the realm of sports. In the fall of 2019, Walker opted to set aside his running shoes for a season in exchange for a microphone to fill the lead role of Buddy the Elf in the school's production of "Elf the Musical."

"Throughout my freshman and sophomore years, I was really into theater at the time," Walker said. "I decided for my junior year that I'm going to take this year off and I'm going to try and devote all of my focus to pursue that career in acting, and I did."

Walker said he doesn't know what prompted his decision to skip out on his junior season to pursue his desire for the stage, but the thought had always rested in the back of his mind. While it lasted, Walker enjoyed the spotlight, scratching his itch from early freshman year. However, it wasn't long before Walker realized he was out of his comfort zone. The friends he made onstage couldn't quite compare to those he made out on the running course. "It was fun while it lasted, but I guess the difference is, I'd rather be around runners than other actors," Walker said. "With running, the people I'm around act like normal people. They're well-mannered and they're good to talk to, whereas people onstage are kind of more like a character you would meet in a movie."

The actors Walker worked with, he said, became unlikeable because of how much they resembled movie personas rather than actually being themselves. "Being an actor, it's kind of a different approach on life," Walker said. "When you're an actor, you surround yourself with all these things. You're always playing a character; you're always memorizing lines. You start to become that character in real life."



JAKE WALKER | SUBMITTED
Maryville senior Jake Walker chose to return to the course and track after opting out of his junior year to participate in the school's musical.



JAKE WALKER | SUBMITTED
Along with running and performing, Maryville senior Jake Walker (left) is on the cheer team. Cheer is the latest of things Walker added to his schedule.

In a direct correlation, Maryville senior Jake Walker (middle) performed as Buddy the Elf in the school's production of "Elf the Musical" after opting out of cross country season. Walker returned to the cross country team for his senior year, as well as took on being a cheerleader for the school's cheer program.

SEE WALKER | A7

Having sports is nice, but not what's best

JON WALKER
Sports Editor
@ByJonWalker

Whether to have or not to have football in the fall, across all levels, was a decision that was left hanging in the balance for months. High schools across the country saw some districts decide to play, while others were left with nothing to do this season. Colleges throughout the country, aside from a few exceptions, saw the entirety of the season fade away. Those that are left playing argued that it was somehow feasible, and still within the best interest of the student-athletes, to conduct sports this fall. That, simply put, isn't among the brightest of ideas. With college football slowly

starting up, the people who stood on the side of having a season are touting the efforts of programs for getting back into the swing of things. Most of the same people advocating for a season took a stand, saying that COVID-19 won't have an impact on an athlete's health based on the statistics for individuals in the late teens and early 20s. Before Power 5 conferences chose to postpone football, it was discovered that Myocarditis — inflammation of the heart muscle — was linked to COVID-19 cases. That, among other things, was one of the main concerns for Division I schools, which initially caused the Pac 12 and Big 10 elect to play in the spring, if possible. On Sept. 8, California University of Pennsylvania defensive lineman Jamain Stephens became the first active NCAA player to die after suffering from complications related to COVID-19.

So, now, how many more have to die for people to see that it wasn't the best of ideas? Still, people argue that it's okay for the programs and conferences to take the field this fall. I see where those people are coming from, truly. As an avid sports fan, there's nothing better than having sports in our lives. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest weekly update tallied that the 15-24 age group has 300 total deaths involving COVID-19, which is closer to the bottom of the rankings than it is the top. But, the same athletes that we'll watch on television are the same ones that have classes with people that aren't being provided a scholarship to attend that campus. Those athletes, of course without intention, could spread it to those people, which creates the cultivation of an outbreak. It's something that perhaps

doesn't cause the athletes direct physical impact, but could directly impact people around them. I think it's somewhat obvious that it's ignorant to continue to put lives at risk, an athlete's or others, for the sake of us being able to enjoy sports throughout the week. And, not even looking at that factor, but people forget an important factor of a team's success — personnel. Isolation and quarantine efforts have gone into effect in more places than not. Teams that are perhaps without key players at game time because of being in close contact with a positive coronavirus test can win or lose that team a game. Maryville football had nine players miss the first two games because of coronavirus-related issues. The Spoofohounds' outscored their opponents by 27 points throughout the first two contests of the 2019 season. They got out-

scored by opponents by 41 points throughout the first two contests of the 2020 season. Maryville football made it through both of those situations 1-1, but the blowout loss in the season opener, coupled with a 2-point win against Harrisonville, hindered the number of district points that the 'Hounds could've gotten. Savannah Football, a team accompanying Maryville in the Midland Empire Conference, was forced to cancel its Week 2 and 3 games due to a spike in positive cases throughout the school. Look, I'm happy if there are sports. Really, I am. I think there's a misconception of people among the media advocating for no sports. That's simply not true, there's for sure not a massive following of it anyways. But, people are completely logical in thinking that there shouldn't be a season.